

CREATING AND SUSTAINING EQUITY THROUGH PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, AND PUBLIC TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

About the Partner

The City of Little Canada is located in Ramsey County, roughly 5 miles north of downtown Saint Paul. The City has an area of approximately 4.5 square miles and a population of approximately 10,500 residents. Little Canada's close proximity to major employment centers, its easy access to the transportation system, its abundance of natural features, and its small-town character are qualities that make it a highly desirable community.



Project Description

Little Canada is geographically positioned in a robust region of cities and communities of different sizes and has a population with diverse abilities and changing characteristics due to factors such as aging, retirement, remote work, and changing childcare needs.

Accessibility, connectivity, safety, and sustainability in transportation are paramount priorities in servicing the needs of Little Canada residents and visitors, as stated in the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the City's Strategic Plan. Improving the City's pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connectivity can have multiple positive impacts for the City including promoting active transportation options which can improve health and reducing individual car use which can contribute to fewer road crashes and less air pollution and emissions.

This project will be an opportunity to increase understanding of active transportation and transit planning at multiple levels (city, county, region), transportation equity, transit budgets, Universal Design, prioritization, long-range planning, community engagement, and problem-solving.

Key Issues, Questions, and Ideas to Explore

1. How can the City improve and enhance the equity, accessibility, connectivity, and safety of pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit pathways? Considerations may include: Safety measures that work in tandem with vehicles, connected sidewalk networks, pathways and signage.
2. How can the City improve and enhance the equity, accessibility, connectivity, and safety of transit stops? Considerations may include: Connected sidewalks and paved areas free of mobility obstacles, covered/sheltered transit stops with seating options and open space, accessible transit schedule information and signage.
3. What improvement and enhancement standards should the City use to prioritize transit stops and pathways for improvement?
4. What community engagement strategies should be used to engage residents in accessibility, connectivity, and transportation safety planning in the City?

How Student Work Will Be Used to Build Community Resilience

- To provide specific, actionable models for equity, accessibility, connectivity, and transportation safety to impact long-term planning in the City

Potential Community Partners or Stakeholders Existing Plans & Reports

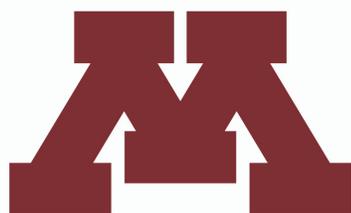
- Ramsey County
- Metro Transit
- Metropolitan Council
- Adjacent Cities: St. Paul, Vadnais Heights, Roseville, Maplewood
- City of Little Canada: 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- City of Little Canada Strategic Plan

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA